

2761 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD (COMMERCIAL)
Arlington
Virginia

HABS VA-1442
HABS VA-1442

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

2761 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD (COMMERCIAL)

HABS No. VA-1442

Location: The commercial building located at 2761 Washington Boulevard, near the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Pershing Drive, is in the Lyon Park neighborhood of Arlington County, Virginia.

The coordinates are 38.88025N, 77.090403W; these were obtained using Google Earth in August 2010 and, it is assumed, using NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Description: The commercial building at 2761 Washington Boulevard was known for more than fifty years as “Whiteys,” a popular Arlington restaurant and bar that closed in 2003. The building consists of two storefronts. Both storefronts have center entrances flanked by windows. To the north, the storefront is faced in limestone, framed by Corinthian pilasters, and capped by a stepped parapet with a swag motif. To the south, the storefront has flush pilasters with bas-relief medallions. The brick walls are exposed on the side elevations. The doors and windows have been replaced and a metal awning spans the south storefront entrance today. One-story additions protrude from the rear, and there is a parking lot on the north side.

Date: County survey files suggest ca. 1936 to 1945 as a construction date; building department cards, for subsequent permits for an aluminum awning (1962), roof (1969), front entrance (1979) and replacement of the back door (1987), suggest 1937 as the date of erection and attribute it to Martin McNerney. Interviews with the then owner Calvin Seville in 2003 have the restaurant/bar open by the 1940s and known as “Tommys” and then “The Nebraskan” before becoming Whiteys after Alexander “Whitey” Joy, who ran the establishment beginning in the mid-1950s.¹

Sources: This summary is drawn from survey work completed by Laura Trieschmann, EHT Traceries, and the Arlington County Historic Preservation Office, as well as a site visit in December 2010 with the HABS Photographer, James Rosenthal.

Historian: Virginia B. Price, 2011.

¹ Arlington County Building Department, “House Numbers and Street Names,” Cards, on file, Arlington County Historic Preservation Office; Jerry Markon, “Whitey’s Fades to Black for Good: Demographics, Competition Doom Popular Arlington Bar,” *Washington Post*, May 8, 2003, VA3.